(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the number of tigers killed in the Dudhwa National Park since the beginning of 1988; and

(c) whether Government have made any inquiry into the matter; if so, what is the outcome thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken to check such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) State Government of Uttar Pradesh have reported that three tigers have been found dead outside the Dudhwa National Park in 1988.

(c) The enquiry being conducted by the State Government into the above incidents is not complete. Further action will depend upon the findings of the enquiry.

Payment of D.A. to Central Government Employees

167. SHRI KAPIL VERMA :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the specific reasons for not releasing the D.A. instalments to the Central Government employees so far; and

(b) what is the policy of Government for payment of D.A. instalments to the Central Government employees in the light of the recommendation of the Central Fourth Pay Commission Report in this regard which has already been accepted by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) The formula suggested by the Fourth Pay Commission is that compensation for price rise may be paid twice a year payable with the salary for September and March on the basis of percentage increase in whole numbers in the twelve monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (General) (Base 1960-100) for the periods ending June and December each year over the index average of 608 with fractions carried forward. The rate of compensation to the employees over the basic pay at index average 608 may also be in whole numbers with fractions carried forward. Employees drawing basic pay upto Rs. 3,500|- should be allowed 100 per cent neutralisation, those between Rs. 3501|- and Rs. 6,000|- be allowed 75 per cent and those above Rs. 6,000|- be allowed 65 per cent subject to marginal adjustments. The above recommendations were accepted by the Government subject to the modification that compensation would be paid from 1st July with the salary for September and from 1st January with the salary for March.

Dearness Allowance at the revised rates has become due to Central Government employees w.e.f. 1-1-1988 on the basis of the above formula. The discussions are going on as to whether the instalment may be credited to the Provident Fund and the final decision is expected to be taken as early as possible.

Thefts/Dacoities in Kerala Express

168. SHRI K. GOPALAN :
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a how many thefts/dacoities took place in Kerala Express during the last year alongwith the details of each incident;

(b) how many of these have been solved so far;

(c) whether any Member of Parliament brought to the notice of Government the role of Railway Protection Force in Kerala Express on the morning of 28th November, 1987 when a theft took place in the train when it left Gudur Station;

(d) whether any inquiry was conducted into the incident; if so what are the details thereof; and

(e) whether any action has been taken against the RPF personnel; if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the State agencies including Government Railway Police which functions under the control of the State Governments. Information regarding thefts/dacoities on individual trains and the number of cases solved out of registered cases is not compiled by the Central agencies.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fall in prices of gold

169. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to indiscriminate smuggling of gold during the last six months, the prices of gold have decreased in Indian markets;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is sharp slide in yellow metal's prices in international markets;

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) what are the details of gold production in India during the last three years and also the quantum of smuggled gold detected during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b). Smuggling is a clandestine activity and it is not possible to make an estimate of gold being smuggled into the country. The increase/decrease in prices of gold in the domestic markets and the magnitude of smuggling of gold in the country is determined largely by :—

(i) High domestic demand due to social customs;

(ii) Demand for hoarding purposes as a security and hedge against inflation;

(iii) Negligible indigenous production and supplies;

(iv) Profitability due to wide differential between low international price and rising domestic prices;

(v) Effective anti-smuggling measures; and

(vi) Fall in the value of dollar.

(c) and (d) There has been a decline in the international (London) prices of gold since December, 1987. As gold is not an essential commodity, the government does not consider it necessary to take any measures regarding prices of gold in the light of fluctuations in the price of gold in the domestic and international markets.

(e) The domestic production of gold during the last three years is :

1985	1852.7 kgs.
1986	1931.1 kgs.
1987	1864.2 kgs.

Quantity of smuggled gold seized during the last three years is :

1985	2525 kgs.
1986	2174 kgs.
1987	2245 kgs. (Provisional)